

SafetyBriefs



SAFETY NEWS FOR UC SAN DIEGO EMPLOYEES

Summer 2009

Safety Award For Excellence Winners!

Moore's Cancer Center Safety Committee Outstanding Work Group



Salvatore Chiappe, Marcia Diamond, David Simonson, Michael Rosenbach, Joseph Aguilera, and Ira Goodman

Moore's Cancer Center Safety Committee coordinates with diverse groups in the Cancer Center to correct safety issues, deliver safety training, and implement health and safety policies and procedures for common operational concerns. Among their many accomplishments, the Committee has supported a satellite office for the smoking cessation group and distributed wallet-size cards with emergency evacuation procedures and emergency phone numbers to over 200 research employees. Congratulations!

Tell us who's making UC San Diego a SAFE place to work. Use the online form at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/safe> to nominate someone for the Safety Award For Excellence (SAFE).

Safety Briefs is Going Digital

If you're one of the many readers who responded to the recent EH&S newsletter survey, thanks very much for participating!

Respondents overwhelmingly supported digital delivery of the EH&S newsletters, Safety Briefs and Lab Notes. Accordingly, this is the last *paper* issue of Safety Briefs you'll receive from EH&S.

To accommodate reader preferences and conserve paper, future editions of Safety Briefs and Lab Notes will be distributed to Department Safety Coordinators by e-mail with a PDF link to the full newsletter. Recipients can read the newsletter online, forward it to colleagues, or print and post or distribute paper copies.

Current and archive issues of Safety Briefs and Lab Notes are always available on Blink.

Your comments and ideas for Safety Briefs and Lab Notes are welcome. Contact us at ehsweb@ucsd.edu.

Student Employees Need Safety Training



Student employees (students being paid by the university for their services) are indispensable at UC San Diego. Make safety awareness a key part of their work experience by ensuring student employees are fully trained to work in a manner that protects not only themselves, but everyone with whom they interact.

Student employees are expected to comply with all safety laws, rules, and regulations, and may not perform work unrelated to their job description.

Because their lack of work skill makes student workers particularly prone to injury and risk, Cal/OSHA has specific instructions for supervisors:

continued on back ... see Student Employees

Clutter-free Building Corridors

Any equipment, material, or activity obstructing passage through a corridor is prohibited.

Building corridors are pathways to safety during emergencies. Cluttering corridors with stuff (surplus equipment and furniture, hazardous materials, combustible trash, recycling containers, etc.) impedes evacuation when every second counts.

Special restrictions apply for hazardous equipment and materials, and for patient care facilities. Some exceptions may be granted with campus fire marshal approval. Find out what's permissible and prohibited in UC San Diego building corridors on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/corridor/>.



Storage cabinets, trash, and kitchen appliances are not permitted in corridors.

Browse "EH&S—Safety" under Course Topics for schedules and registration. Learn more about UCSD safety training resources at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/menu/safetytraining>.



Please post or circulate

Student Employees Need Safety Training

... continued

- Ensure student employees attend Injury & Illness Prevention Program training. IIPP training provides a minimum level of safety knowledge for all members of the campus community, including graduate and undergraduate student employees, including teaching assistants. IIPP is not meant to replace training for specific safety programs.
- Provide training for job-specific hazards and safety procedures. Student workers must be trained to at least the same level as career or contract workers engaged in the same type of work ... and it must be documented.
- Provide and document additional training whenever new job tasks, equipment, or materials are assigned.
- Instruct student workers to dress appropriately. Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) when required, and enforce its use. Make sure young employees understand the limitations of their PPE, and how to properly use and maintain the equipment.
- Assign an experienced employee or mentor to train student workers whenever possible. An experienced worker can develop a student's safety awareness with institutional knowledge, insight, and instructive anecdotes.



- Encourage student employees to report immediately to a supervisor and EH&S any unsafe working conditions, equipment, or practices they observe or encounter, and on-the-job accidents so Workers' Compensation procedures can be activated.

Find safety training resources on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/menu/safetytraining/>.

Questions? Contact the EH&S safety training manager at ehs-training@ucsd.edu.

Indoor Environments: How to Get Assistance

Indoor environment concerns include odors, air temperature, ventilation problems, leaks, floods, sewage backups, mold, pests, and other building-related issues.

Find out who to contact for assistance with common indoor environment concerns: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/indoorenviro/>.

What to Do When an Injury Happens



Go to the UC San Diego Web site at ucsd.edu and type *injury* in the Search box. Click on "What to Do if a Work-Related Injury, Illness, or Exposure Occurs," and follow instructions.

Don't Top Off!

Topping off is the practice of continuing to fill a gas tank after the nozzle clicks off.

Topping off can cause gas to overflow and spill, releasing benzene (a known carcinogen) and other toxic air pollutants into the air—a health concern for gas station workers and drivers. Release of toxic vapors during vehicle fueling is a major contributor to smog formation, according to California's Air Resources Board (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/>).

Topping off doesn't mean more gas in the tank. Most modern pumps return the fuel back into the pump after the overflow click, so drivers are paying for fuel that doesn't get into the gas tank. In some cases, overfilling a gas tank can cause a vehicle's vapor control system to clog and stop working, resulting in costly repairs.



Don't Top Off!

Campus Casualties

Incident Reports

- An employee cutting flaps off a cardboard box, slipped and sliced their own hand.
- Accidentally kicking a chair broke the toe of another employee.
- A researcher fell off a lab stool and bruised their tailbone.
- An employee stepped off a forklift and twisted their knee.
- An employee pushed a conference table against a wall, causing a wall-mounted clock to fall on their foot, bruising and cutting their toe.